

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 NSCE-00

ACDA-19 EB-11 AID-20 IO-14 OIC-04 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 131920Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4059

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CH

SUBJ: CHINESE STANCE ON PARACELS AND SPRATLY ISLANDS

1. AT NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 12 CANADIAN POLAD SAID THAT BASED UPON RECENT REPORTS FROM HIS EMBASSY AT PEKING THE PRC SAW ITS ACTIONS IN THE PARACELS DISPUTE AS A "PRINCIPLED STAND" ON A TERRITORIAL CLAIM IT REGARDS AS INDISPUTABLE. THE PRC ACTION IN THE PARACELS, WHICH COINCIDED WITH GROWING XENOPHOBIC TENDENCIES, BOUGHT A CHEAP VICTORY AGAINST A WEAK RVN OPPONENT, BUT AT A COST OF POSSIBLE DISCORD BETWEEN PEKING AND HANOI.

\*. THE CANADIAN FORESAW NO SIMILAR PRC ARMED ACTION IN THE SPRATLYS FOR THESE REASONS: DISTANCE OF THE SPRATLYS FROM CHINA AND THE PRC RECORD OF CAUTION WHERE APPARENTLY INSURMOUNTABLE\* OBSTACLES STOOD IN THE WAY OF SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF AN OPERATION, E.G. TAIWAN; AND SEVERE IMPLICATONS FOR THE PRC'S STANDING IN THE THIRD WORLD.

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3. CANADIAN POLAD NOTED THAT CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE REPLYING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SPRATLYS THAT THE RVN HAD WITHDRAWN THE TROOPS IT LANDED, THUS MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN PARACELS AND SPRATLYS. MCAULIFFE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** CHINESE STANCE ON PARACELS AND SPRATLY ISLANDS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NATO, CH  
**To:** STATE INFO HONG KONG  
**PEKING**  
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**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005